

PLATE 2 of 3

Utah Geological Survey Geologic Map 180

Geologic Map of the Moab and eastern part of the San Rafael Desert 30'x60' Quadrangles, Grand and Emery Counties, Utah, and Mesa County, Colorado

UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

a division of the

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

in cooperation with the

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COGEOGRAPHIC Agreement No. 1434-92-A-1087

STATEMAP Agreement No. 1434-98-HQAG-2067

DESCRIPTION OF GEOLOGIC UNITS

Quaternary Deposits

Qf Artificial fill – Clay to boulder-size material in tailings, railroad and road fill, and dams that are large enough to map at the 1:100,000 scale; locally as much as 21 meters (70 ft) thick; late Holocene.

Qal Stream alluvium – Sand, silt, clay, granules, pebbles, and sparse cobbles adjacent to more active stream courses; unconsolidated, poorly to well-sorted channel-fill and low terrace deposits; thickness varies widely, but commonly less than 10 meters (33 ft) thick; Holocene to late Pleistocene.

Qam Alluvial mud – Light to medium-gray silt, clay, sand, and minor fragments of sandstone, mostly derived from members of the Cretaceous Mancos Shale; unconsolidated; fills swales in the softest parts of the Mancos Shale; thickness less than 10 meters (33 ft); Holocene to late Pleistocene.

Qap Pediment-mantle deposits – Poorly to moderately sorted, rounded to angular boulders, cobbles, pebbles, granules, sand, silt, and clay; cover bedrock surfaces between drainages as much as 120 meters (400 ft) above local base level; commonly less than 30 meters (100 ft) thick; mostly late Pleistocene.

Qaf Alluvial-fan deposits – Poorly sorted, angular to subrounded gravel, containing cobbles and sparse boulders, in crudely bedded to unstratified granules, sand, silt, and clay matrix; cut-and-fill channel facies are locally present; deposited at the foot of mountains, cliffs, and at the mouths of streams; thickness commonly less than 15 meters (50 ft); Holocene to late Pleistocene.

Qat Terrace deposits – Cobbles, granules, pebbles, sand, silt, and clay adjacent to, but higher than, river, stream, and larger ephemeral stream courses; locally as high as 200 meters (650 ft) above present stream courses; generally contain clasts from distant upstream sources (metamorphic, igneous, and chert clasts); thickness mostly 5 meters (16 ft) or less; may be 20 meters (60 ft) or more in salt valleys; late to middle Pleistocene.

Qag Alluvial gravel, undifferentiated – Clast sizes vary from deposit to deposit; no particular geomorphic form or location; thickness commonly 5 meters (16 ft) or less.

Qab Basin-fill alluvium – Sand, silt, clay, granules, pebbles, and cobbles; may contain local lacustrine or eolian deposits; fills depressions created by salt dissolution in Pennsylvanian Paradox Formation; may be as much as 180 meters (60 ft) thick; mostly Pleistocene in age, commonly covered by Holocene unconsolidated deposits.

Qst Tufa deposits – Mostly drab, light yellow-gray, calcareous tufa, some yellow or to dusky red brown, porous, crudely laminated, locally thin bedded; weathers in plates and platelets; formed by cold-water springs and geysers; thickness as much as 5 meters (25 ft); Holocene to middle Pleistocene.

Qea Mixed eolian and alluvial deposits – Sand and silt of eolian origin interspersed with silt, sand, and gravel of fluvial origin; generally dominated by eolian deposits; commonly displays a well-developed caliche soil horizon at the top; thickness 10 meters (33 ft) or less; Holocene to middle Pleistocene.

Qes, Qed Eolian deposits – Well-sorted sand and silt; deposited in sheets (Qes) and dunes (Qed); commonly fills hollows in sandstone outcrops or collects on the lee sides of cliffs and slopes; thickness 15 meters (50 ft) or less; Holocene.

Qgt Glacial till – Very poorly sorted, angular to subangular clasts of all sizes; larger clasts are commonly striated; fills U-shaped canyons in the La Sal Mountains; as much as 90 meters (300 ft) thick in lateral moraines; early Holocene to late Pleistocene.

Qmt Talus and colluvium – Rock-fall blocks, boulders, smaller angular gravel, sand, and silt; deposited on slopes below cliffs and steep slopes; only larger deposits mapped; thickness generally 4.5 meters (15 ft) or less; Holocene to late Pleistocene.

Qms Slumps and slides – Coherent to broken and jumbled masses of bedrock that have moved downslope due to gravity; most commonly associated with the Jurassic Brushy Basin Member of the Morrison Formation; varied thicknesses; Holocene to late Pleistocene.

Qcb Boulderly colluvium – Large angular blocks covering slopes in La Sal Mountains; broken by freeze and thaw of hard rock units; may be as thick as 30 meters (100 ft); Holocene to late Pleistocene.

Q Quaternary deposits, undivided (shown on cross sections only) – Mostly basin-fill deposits (Qab); Holocene and Pleistocene.

Quaternary-Tertiary Deposits

QTaf Older alluvial-fan deposits – Sand, silt, granules, pebbles, cobbles, and sparse boulders deposited at the foot of the La Sal Mountains; thickness 60 to 90 meters (200-300 ft); early Pleistocene to Pliocene(?).

Tertiary Rocks

Tg Geyser Rock Finglomerate – Yellow-brown, light-brown, and light-gray conglomerate, sandstone, and siltstone derived from the La Sal Mountains; generally poorly sorted and weakly cemented with calcium carbonate; thickness as much as 305 meters (1,000 ft), but exposures are generally less than 92 meters (300 ft) thick; Pliocene(?).

Ti La Sal Mountains intrusive rocks – Hornblende-plagioclase trachyte,

Cretaceous Rocks

Kf Farrer Formation – Interbedded light-to dark-brown, medium-grained, thin-to thick-bedded sandstone and pale-gray, green-gray, and brown mudstone and siltstone; ledge and slope former; lower contact gradational, placed above highest carbonaceous beds in the Neslen Formation; only lower part preserved in the quadrangle; 70 to 204 meters (230-670 ft) thick; Campanian.

Kn Neslen Formation – Interbedded light-to dark-gray mudstone, carbonaceous shale, and coal and light-to dark-brown sandstone; slope-former with sporadic prominent ledges; coal beds generally less than 0.6 meters (2 ft) thick; lower contact at top of Segro Sandstone cliff; about 43 meters (140 ft) thick; Campanian.

Ks Segro Sandstone – Light-gray and yellow-gray sandstone and gray mudstone; sandstone is fine to medium grained, massive, and cliff-forming; mudstone is slope-forming; displays hummocky bedding, cross-bedding, convolute bedding, ripple laminations, and bioturbation; contains trace fossils; contact with Buck Tongue of Mancos Shale is gradational, placed at the base of the first medium-bedded sandstone bed; about 40 meters (130 ft) thick; Campanian.

Kmv Mesa Verde Formation – Variegated (purple, green, white, orange) mudstone interbedded with gray, white, or brown conglomeratic sandstone, conglomerate, nodular limestone, and gritstone; slope forming with subtle ledges; purple and lavender has dominate in most areas, but bright green dominates in Cache Valley and in the southern part of the Salt Valley anticline; layers of bentonitic claystone are common, outcrops are generally prone to slumping; lower contact placed at the base of the mudstone sequence or at the base of the lowest conglomerate ledge; 90 to 135 meters (295-450 ft) thick; Upper Mesaverde.

Kms Salt Wash Member of Morrison Formation – Light-yellow-red sandstone interbedded with red and gray mudstone and siltstone; sandstone is fine to coarse grained, cross-bedded, and forms medium to thick lenses; mudstone and siltstone form slopes or recesses between sandstone ledges; lower contact at base of first thick sandstone bed above the red or lavender siltstone of the Tidwell Member of the Morrison Formation; locally intertongues with Tidwell siltstones; 40 to 90 meters (130-300 ft) thick; Upper Jurassic.

Jms Tidwell Member of Morrison Formation and Summerville Formation, undivided – Divisible in field, but too thin to map separately at the 1:100,000 scale; Tidwell Member (Dnt) consists of calcareous, thin-bedded sandstone, thin-bedded sandstone, light-gray, thin- to thick-bedded, very fine-grained sandstone, and gray thin-bedded interbedded with nodular limestone; all slope forming; limestone locally contains large white chert concretions; west of 110° W., locally intertongues with thick white gypsum bodies; 6 to 20 meters (20-65 ft) thick. Summerville unconformably overlies J-1 unconformity overlain by Tidwell Member. In areas where combined with the Tidwell, the Summerville is gray, tan, brown, and red, and is fine-grained, thin-bedded sandstone and siltstone that forms a steep slope and becomes ledgy near the top; 2-21 meters (6-69 ft) thick; Upper and Middle Jurassic.

Jsm Summerville and Morrison Formations, undivided – Mapped in areas where the Morrison Formation members and the Summerville Formation can't be separated; Upper and Middle Jurassic.

Js Summerville Formation – Mapped separately near the Green River where it is mostly red sandstone and siltstone, laminated to medium bedded; mostly forms steep slope with light-brown sandstone ledge at top; gypsum veins and thin beds of gypsum in the upper part in T. 22 and 23 S., R. 16 and 17 E.; lower contact gradational with Curtis Formation in far west; lower contact abrupt at base of a reworked zone of the Moab Tongue of the Curtis Formation overlain by red beds; 2 to 67 meters (6-220 ft) thick (see figure 3, plate 3 for thickness detail); Middle Jurassic.

Jsc Summerville and Curtis Formations, undivided – Mostly red fine-grained sandstone and siltstone; laminated to medium bedded; commonly forms steep slope; only mapped in T. 23 S., R. 17 E. and the southwest corner of T. 23 S., R. 18 E.; 30 to 40 meters (100-130 ft) thick; Middle Jurassic.

Jct Curtis Formation – Brown, gray, green, lavender, and orange fine-grained sandstone and siltstone; mostly thin bedded, argillaceous and calcareous, forms slopes and ledges; contains red, black, and olive-brown chert near top; unconformable lower contact (J-3 unconformity) of Phipps and O'Sullivan; 15 to 100 meters (50-330 ft) thick; Turonian.

Jcm Moab Member of Curtis Formation (member of Entrada Sandstone on previous maps) – Light-yellow-gray, fine- to medium-grained, cross-bedded, massive, and cliff-forming sandstone; forms a tongue between the Summerville and Entrada Formations and pinches out in the western part of the quadrangle; rests directly on the Slick Rock Member in the east; the Slick Rock Member of the Entrada Sandstone is placed at the base of a prominent parting or a salt line, probably T. 23 S., R. 17 E., which has considerable relief in the Dewey area; 0 to 42 meters (0-138 ft) thick (including the main Curtis where both are present); Middle Jurassic.

Jec Entrada and Curtis Formations, undivided – Mapped in areas where the Slick Rock Member of the Entrada Sandstone and the Moab Member of the Curtis Formation were not differentiated in mapping.

Jctm Early member of Entrada Sandstone – Early red-brown, fine-grained sandstone; thick nodular to indistinct bedding; more resistant than the Curtis Formation; above, less resistant than the Slick Rock Member of the Entrada Sandstone below; lower contact is generally abrupt, placed above the massive, smooth-weathering sandstone of the Slick Rock; present in R. 16 and 17 E.; the outcrop pinches out in section 11, T. 23 S., R. 17 E.; 0 to 18 meters (0-60 ft) thick; Middle Jurassic.

Jcd Lower Carmel Formation – Western correlative of the lower half of the Dewey Bridge Member; light-gray, light-brown, mostly fine-grained

Jurassic Rocks

KJ Cedar Mountain/Burro Canyon and Morrison Formations, undivided (shown on cross sections only).

Jmb Brushy Basin Member of Morrison Formation – Variegated (purple, green, white, orange) mudstone interbedded with gray, white, or brown conglomeratic sandstone, conglomerate, nodular limestone, and gritstone; slope forming with subtle ledges; purple and lavender has dominate in most areas, but bright green dominates in Cache Valley and in the southern part of the Salt Valley anticline; layers of bentonitic claystone are common, outcrops are generally prone to slumping; lower contact placed at the base of the mudstone sequence or at the base of the lowest conglomerate ledge; 90 to 135 meters (295-450 ft) thick; Upper Mesaverde.

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Permian Rocks

P Chinle Formation – Red-brown sandstone, siltstone, conglomeratic sandstone, and mudstone; forms steep slope with Moenkopi Formation below; exposures cannot be differentiated; combined Navajo, Kayenta, and Wingate Formations also shown on cross sections.

Pc Cutler Formation – Interbedded red-brown subarkose, arkose, and micaceous sandstone and lavender-brown conglomerate; sandstone is fine to coarse grained and gritty in texture; exposures; low- to high-angle cross-beds, thin bedded to massive, and forms smooth and rounded ledges; conglomerate is mostly pebbles to 13-centimeter (5-inch) cobbles; to cobbles exceeding 30 centimeters (1 ft) or more in diameter are common in the eastern part of the quadrangle; mostly quartzite, granite, felsite, gneiss, and chert clasts; matrix is poorly sorted, fine- to coarse-grained sandstone, with grains of quartz, lithic fragments, mica, feldspar, and unidentified black minerals; laminated to indistinct bedding; weathers to smooth irregular slopes or gentle ledges; lower contact is placed above a gray limestone ledge that contains Late Pennsylvanian (Virgilian/Osullivanid); 0 to 2,450 meters (8,000 ft) thick; missing over some salt-corred anticlines, thickest at the west end of the anticline; the Uncompahgre uplift, as much as 1,000 meters (3,300 ft) exposed; 75 meters (245 ft) of gray-white, chert-bearing quartzose sandstone at the top of the Cutler Formation in the north part of the southwest flank of Castle Valley may be an outcrop of White Rim Sandstone; Lower Permian.

Pp Paradox Formation (shown on cross sections only) – Interbedded evaporite, clastic, and carbonate rocks; evaporites include finely laminated halite, sylvite, carnallite, and anhydrite and may constitute as much as 85 percent of the formation; clastic and carbonate rocks are interbedded shale, siltstone, limestone, and dolomite and are grouped into "marker beds" (Hite, 1977); includes Finkerton Trail and Moya Formations (see lithologic column); 0 to 1,370 meters (4,500 ft) thick in Paradox basin, but as much as 4,300 meters (14,100 ft) thick in salt-corred anticlines, salt commonly missing adjacent to salt-corred anticlines, thickest at the west end of the anticline; the Uncompahgre uplift, as much as 1,000 meters (3,300 ft) exposed; 75 meters (245 ft) of gray-white, chert-bearing quartzose sandstone at the top of the Cutler Formation in the north part of the southwest flank of Castle Valley may be an outcrop of White Rim Sandstone; Lower Permian.

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